



## Breeding Bird Monitoring - Final Report, 2014

Twenty-seven nesting sites on the Greenway were monitored in 2014. The sites are in the same locations as last year: near the Nature Center, along the edges of pastures near the Dairy Barn and Springfield, and in the area of the Field Trial barn and the Adventure Center. Data were again reported electronically to NestWatch, at Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. Detailed data are available in my Excel files.<sup>1</sup>

We had fewer active nest sites this year but fledged more birds than last year. Our results are in line with those of the past fifteen years. I was pleased and thankful again to have the help of John Marklewitz, a graduate of the Greenway's Master Naturalist class, this year. We hope to continue our collaboration.

Following are some comments based on the data for 2014.

While Eastern bluebirds remain the focus of our interest, monitoring activities include all birds that are observed nesting on the Greenway. The sites monitored this year included the same nest boxes as last year. Due to recent publicity about the decline in nuthatch populations, I placed restrictors on the holes of 5 boxes, making them too small for bluebirds to enter. Unfortunately, nuthatches did not use them either. I am not certain if they were converted too late in the season or were not suitably placed.

Four boxes did attract Carolina chickadees that nested and laid eggs but only three eggs hatched and no birds fledged. Eastern Phoebe nest sites on either the front or back porches of the Nature Center had eggs but suffered from predation before the eggs hatched. We had no Tufted Titmouse or Carolina Wren nests this year.

The earliest bluebird eggs were laid in our boxes on April 3, 2014. Since we only monitor the boxes every 7 - 10 days, it is rare to see the birds actually leave the nest but the first bluebirds fledged in mid-April. Nesting continued until early July and the last birds fledged as late as August 20.

All bluebird nest boxes were used at least once this year. Several had 2 or 3 nest attempts. This data suggests box locations are well optimized for bluebirds but we need to move some to try to attract nuthatches. Eight new or repaired nest boxes have been readied for next season.

John and I plan to continue monitoring the Greenway nest sites and reporting the data to NestWatch in 2015. Readers of this report who are interested in more data on our nest sites and others in the Carolinas and around the US are invited to visit the NestWatch website, [nestwatch.org](http://nestwatch.org) (you will need to create an account to see data).

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<sup>1</sup> See Excel spreadsheet: [breedingSummary 2014.xlsx](#)



**Table I. Summary of Bluebird Box Monitoring, 1999 – 2013**

Year	No. of Boxes	Bluebird Eggs Laid	Bluebird Eggs Hatched	Bluebirds Fledged	Eggs of Other Species	Number Fledged	Total No. of Eggs	Total Fledged
1999	22	50	(2)	14			50	14
2000	27	87	(2)	64			87	64
2001	24	131	(2)	68			131	68
2002	24	156	(2)	55-58			156	55-58
2003	23	142	(2)	65			142	65
2004	24	135	(2)	74			135	74
2005	35	157	(2)	66			157	66
2006	30	182	(2)	82-89			182	82-89
2007	32	236	(2)	93			236	93
2008	33 <sup>1</sup>	199	110	79	18	9	217	88
2009	33 <sup>1</sup>	182	80	56	15	13	197	69
2010	29 <sup>1</sup>	198	118	92	18	13	216	105
2011	28	164	116	93	36	15	200	108
2012	29	243	144	130	32	17	275	147
2013	31	180	117	85	13	0	193	85
2014	27	188	134	100	25	0	213	100

1. 8 boxes were inactive (unused throughout the season)

2. Data not tabulated